

concerns of life, than many of the branches of knowledge which are now usually taught in our schools and colleges.

Every judicious means, therefore, of facilitating the popular study of physiology is deserving of commendation, and among these, one of the most important is a manual, in which the science is treated of in a plain intelligible manner—the facts that have been established in relation to it being carefully separated from every thing of a doubtful, or merely hypothetical character, and explained in language divested as much as possible of all technical terms.

Though the preparation of such a manual is, confessedly, a task of no little difficulty, it nevertheless appears to us to have been more nearly accomplished by Dr. Hayward in the work before us, than by the few who have heretofore attempted it.

It is true, that upon a few points connected with the subject we should, to a certain extent, question the correctness of the author's views, and in regard to some others, would require a more extended exposition of the facts and reasoning of the more distinguished physiologists of the present day. These remarks will apply more especially to that portion of the work which treats of the structure and functions of the brain and nervous system.

Taken, however, as a whole, these *Outlines of Human Physiology* confer much credit upon their author, and ought to be in the hands of all who would desire to know something of the nature and vital powers of his own body. Such knowledge is essential to the proper management of the physical education of children; as well as to an acquaintance with those circumstances by which the health and vigour of the system is impaired, and with the means by which they are to be avoided.

The present work is admirably adapted as an elementary treatise, for the use of the higher classes in our common schools; and this object Dr. Hayward appears to have had principally in view in undertaking its compilation. D. F. C.

XX. *Medicinalbericht des Königl. Preuss. Medicinal-Collegiums der Provinz Sachsen, für das Jahr 1830. Zusammengestellt von Dr. AUGUST ANDREAS, Königl. Medicinalrath und Lehrer an der Med. Chir. Lehranstalt zu Magdeburg. Magdeburg, 1831. 12mo. pp. 96.*

*Medical Report of the Royal Prussian College of the Province of Saxony for 1830. Compiled by AUGUST ANDREAS, M. D., &c.*

Although the above is the first title of the volume before us, yet it appears, from a second title, (*Auszug aus dem Medicinalbericht*,) that it is more properly an abstract of the report referred to.

The work is divided into two parts, each of which embraces the report for six months of the year, and is arranged into five sections.

The first section presents an account of the weather, epidemic constitution, and prevalent diseases.

The second, observations on the most remarkable epidemic, endemic, and contagious diseases which occurred within the province.

The third, observations on sporadic diseases, and remarkable cases in surgery and obstetrics.

The fourth, notices of the public institutions for affording medical relief.

The fifth, scientific medical notices.

This work is a specimen of one of the numerous forms under which medical and scientific information is diffused, at a very cheap rate, throughout every branch of the medical and other professions in Germany.

Although the remarks on the subjects embraced in the volume are extremely brief and superficial, as will readily be supposed, when it is recollected that the whole are comprised in less than ninety-six pages, duodecimo, such publications are nevertheless not without their advantages. They afford important practical hints to those whose means of information are but limited, facilitate the rapid diffusion of useful facts, and tend in no slight degree to render the experience and observations of the individual members of the profession, especially such as have the charge of medical institutions, the common property of the whole. They may be compared, in many points of view, to the quarterly summaries of our own journals.

In order to give the reader a better idea of the contents of the present report, we have translated from it one or two of the articles, without any particular attempt at selection.

*"Hooping-cough.*—As was noticed above, this disease prevailed at Mühlhausen as an epidemic during the second quarter of the year, and was in general of a mild character. A full account of it is given by Dr. Bernigau. The continuance of the disease in each patient was always protracted to five or six weeks, and by an improper diet was often prolonged to double this period. The constitution of the patients did not appear to exert any striking influence upon its duration. Dr. Bernigau is convinced that in some families it was propagated by contagion. In its treatment, he generally administered, at its commencement, an emetic, which had the effect of preventing the scanty discharge of urine which was otherwise observed—he subsequently directed the tartar emetic ointment, pediluvia, and injections. In the spasmodic stage of the disease he prescribed from a fourth to one grain of belladonna, either alone, or, for some days, combined with Kermes' min. or sulph. aumt., less frequently with calomel, and finally with flor. zinci. When the patient could be induced to take it, he gave during the day the assafetida, and night and morning the belladonna. 'I would gladly,' remarks Dr. B. 'have substituted, in the cases of other children, for so disgusting an article as the assafetida, the prussic acid, had it not been for the uncertain and indeterminate manner in which the latter is prepared, and, from employing the bitter almond water, which differs so evidently from the laurel water, I was prevented, from the fact, that I had frequently prescribed it in the dose of a spoonful, or even more, without observing any effect to be produced by it. Leeches I have never employed, either in this or in former epidemics of the disease. The principal cause of the long-continued and violent spasmodic cough so frequent in cases of pertussis, is the great neglect of confining the patient strictly to a proper diet. The least error in diet will produce and increase the cough and vomiting; especially should the use of any substance having an approach to acidity be avoided. This fact was confirmed by the effects I this day observed from the eating of cherries and strawberries.'

"Dr. Becher, of Mühlhausen, prescribes in the spasmodic stage of hooping-cough, equal parts of the tinct. ipecac. and rhœis toxicodendri, of which a child from five to six years old may take ten drops three or four times a day, this dose being gradually increased to twenty drops."

*"Disease of the Heart.*—A boy, sixteen years old, had complained for some months of shortness of breath, cough with expectoration, and palpitation of the heart, and when he came under the care of Dr. Niemeyer, of Magdeburg, he was labouring under complete hectic fever; the difficulty of breathing was excessive, and the palpitation of the heart was sensible to the ear. The abdo-

men and inferior extremities were dropsical, and many parts of the body were covered with vibices. The eye-lids were loaded with blood, and the pubes, scrotum, and inner surface of the thighs were of a dark blue colour. Under the use of diuretics, digitalis, and the bark with acids, nearly all these symptoms disappeared; the skin assumed its natural hue, and nothing remained to excite any suspicion of organic disease of the heart, with the exception of the palpitation. This state of improvement continued, however, only for a few weeks, during which time the patient was able to leave his bed and walk out into the open air. Finally all the symptoms recurred, and the patient died in a state of universal dropsy. On examining the thorax, the pericardium was found to occupy an unusually large space, the lungs being pressed by it, as in the fetus, to the lateral and back parts of the pleural cavities; the pericardium nevertheless contained only two or three ounces of a thick, yellowish-brown fluid. The substance was evidently thickened, and its inner surface was covered with a yellowish pulsatious substance. The heart itself was enlarged to nearly double its natural size. On its exterior surface a white spot presented itself of about half an inch in diameter, and a quarter of an inch thick. The enlargement of the heart was confined exclusively to its right half, the parietes of which were double the thickness, and its cavities three times more capacious than those of the left side, which latter was nearly in its normal state. The right cavities of the heart were filled with a polypus mass of considerable firmness, the left cavities were empty. No morbid changes could be detected in the great vessels given off by the heart."

"*Polypus of the Intestines*.—Dr. Tenenborn, of Wolfersode, was consulted in the case of a boy, 1740, otherwise apparently in good health, had for nearly six months discharged blood per anum. The usual astringents, as alum, &c. had been tried without any good effect. The lad at length voided by stool a polypus of the size a heart cherry, which had been attached by a slender pedicle. After this the discharge of blood ceased. Dr. T. also mentions two other similar cases which he had previously seen in children of four years of age. The doctor presumes that the hæmorrhage was caused by the polypus passing out at the anus and becoming constricted by the sphincter. For a long time two eminent surgeons had mistaken the polypus in the above case for a hæmorrhoidal tumour."

Under the head of Scientific Medical Notices, we have the following:—

Aqua oxymuriatica recommended by Dr. Hoffman, of Suhl, as a wash for gangrenous ulcers, and also as an injection in cases of gleet.

Liquor hydrarg. nitrici is recommended, upon the same authority, in the treatment of lues. Dose seven drops, morning and evening.

A case is reported by Dr. Meyern, of Tastingen, in which the application of cold water to a rheumatic or gouty inflammation of the foot was followed by violent inflammation of the brain.

Two cases are reported by Dr. Fritze, of Magdeburg, in which tape-worms were entirely expelled by the extract, *filicis maris æth.*

Oleum jecoris aselli, (cod's liver oil,) mixed with eight parts of common syrup, and given in the dose of from two to four tea-spoonfuls daily, was found beneficial by Dr. Neide, of Magdeburg, in scabietic pains.

The acetate of morphinum is recommended by Dr. Kreysig, of Sangerhausen, as a local application in pains of the face, (*tic douloureux*.)

Dr. Friedricks, of Torgau, cured a case of gangrene of the mouth, (*wasserkrebs*;) in a boy fifteen years old, which had already destroyed the greater portion of the soft parts of the left jaw, by a wash of the chlorate of lime dissolved in distilled water, and afterwards in a decoction of bark, using at the same time internally muriatic acid.

Dr. Reck also relates a case of the same disease cured by the use of animal charcoal.

A combination of assafœtida and phosphoric acid, in the form of pills, according to the plan of Rust, is recommended by Dr. Böttcher, of Sachsa, as a remedy in fistulous sores. An interesting case is reported of extensive sinous ulceration of the lip, occurring in a female thirty years old, completely cured by the above remedy in six weeks—laudanum was applied locally to the fistula. Neither the mode of preparing the pills nor their dose is given.

Cortex pruni padî is recommended by Dr. Rupprecht as a remedy in gout, in the form of decoction, made by boiling half an ounce of the root in four ounces of water, and then straining. The dose of which is a table-spoonful every two hours.

The mange occurring in cats is said to be capable of being communicated to the human subject.

A case of lameness from rheumatism, of three years standing, was cured by Dr. Schneider, of Sommerschenburg, by acupuncture in connexion with galvanism.

Two cases of the same affection were cured by Dr. Reinhardt, of Mühlhausen, by the use of liver-oil, (leberthran—train-oil!) in the dose of a table-spoonful, night and morning.

A case of serofulous ophthalmia was cured by an extremely low diet, (die hungereu,) the patient at the same time taking one grain of calomel, morning and evening.

D. P. C.

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*XXI. Chemistry, Meteorology, and the Function of Digestion, considered with reference to Natural Theology.* By WILLIAM PROUT, M.D., F. R. S. Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. Philadelphia, Carey, Lea & Blanchard, 1834, 12mo. pp. 307.

The above work constitutes the eighth of the Bridgewater treatises on the power, wisdom, and goodness of God, as manifested in the creation.

Though the treatise of Dr. Prout is written principally for popular use, it cannot fail, also, to recommend itself strongly to the attention of even the scientific reader. In relation to each of the subjects which it embraces, the author has presented a large mass of facts and leading principles, in a form, which, though extremely condensed, is nevertheless free from the least confusion or ambiguity, and calculated, in a striking manner, to promote the general object of the Bridgewater legacy.

It is principally, however, the last division of the treatise which renders it more particularly interesting to physicians; that, namely, which treats of the chemistry of organization, especially of the chemical process of digestion, and of the subsequent processes by which the various alimentary substances are assimilated to, and become component parts of a living body.

The views advanced by Dr. Prout on this branch of his subject, are somewhat novel, and explain, in our opinion, in a more satisfactory manner, or at least throw much more light upon the process of digestion and assimilation than those generally entertained by physiologists.

It would be impossible for us, without extracting the greater part of the